

Date: Tue, 21 Sep 93 20:42:10 PDT
From: Info-Hams Mailing List and Newsgroup <info-hams@ucsd.edu>
Errors-To: Info-Hams-Errors@UCSD.Edu
Reply-To: Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu
Precedence: Bulk
Subject: Info-Hams Digest V93 #1125
To: Info-Hams

Info-Hams Digest Tue, 21 Sep 93 Volume 93 : Issue 1125

Today's Topics:

 9 WEEKS!!!
 [HELP] Looking for hams in Prague, Czech Republic
 Antenna Covenants AGAIN (but now with a twist!) (2 msgs)
 Battery recommendation wanted (2 msgs)
 covenants (2 msgs)
 Daily Solar Geophysical Data Broadcast for 21 September
Emergency: cellular vs ham (was Re: Yagi for Cellular Phone?)
Expensive application processes... (Was: Antenna Covenants)
 Ignition noise found
 MFJ QRP Rigs - Experiences? Any good?
 Replacing my CSCE...

Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu>
Send subscription requests to: <Info-Hams-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Info-Hams Digest are available
(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/info-hams".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

Date: 21 Sep 1993 22:25:33 GMT
From: sdd.hp.com!vixen.cso.uiuc.edu!howland.reston.ans.net!math.ohio-state.edu!
wupost!waikato!comp.vuw.ac.nz!newshost.wcc.govt.nz!blade.wcc.govt.nz!
PALMER@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: 9 WEEKS!!!
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <27nrkg\$oh8@lester.appstate.edu>, RW884@CONRAD.APPSTATE.EDU (Watkins,
Robert Shawn) writes:
>For all those fretting over how long it is taking to get your license, I took
>my test on July 17th and got my ticket yesterday, September 20th. That is
>only 9 weeks! Obviously the FCC is getting caught up from the summer

>swamp. So hang on, it may be here sooner than you think.
>
> 73s de KE4FPZ

Hows this

I sat my Ham licence on Saturday Sep 5th
Got my results in the mail saturday Sep 12th
On Monday morning at 8-30am I was at the door of our local
Licensing Authority and by 9am I had been issued my Licence.

Im ZL2WJP

Hows that
(Eat you heart out)

```
-----  
  /-/-/-/-/      |      From John M Palmer  
  /-/-/-/-/-/      /---/---/      EMAIL PALMER@MED.WCC.GOVT.NZ  
      |              x              |  
  /---/---/      x      /---/---/      QTH Newlands, Wellington  
      x              --x--      x      NEW ZEALAND  
  -x              |      x      Maidenhead Location RE78  
      x              |      x      Call sign ZL2WJP  
      x-----|-----||x      x      WN 331  
      /              ||x\      /      \      WN 332  
  /-----/||x\      /---/---\      ECR 332  
  | [ ] [ ] ### [ ] ||x | || | | | ||      Kiwi 84  
  |              ### | ||x | || | | | ||  
-----
```

```
-- I think I've got the hang of it now .... :w :q :wq :wq! ^d X exit ^X^C ~.  
^[x X Q :quitbye CtrlAltDel ~~q :~q logout save/quit :!QUIT ^[zz ^[ZZ  
ZZZZ ^H ^@ ^L ^[c $q ^# ^E ^X ^I ^T ? help helpquit ^D ^d ^C ^c help  
^]q exit ?Quit ?q  
-----
```

Date: Tue, 21 Sep 1993 19:02:59 GMT
From: netcomsv!attain!icd.teradyne.com!beaux!tivonne@decwrl.dec.com
Subject: [HELP] Looking for hams in Prague, Czech Republic
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Subject: [HELP] Hams in Prague, anyone?

Greetings netters,
I hope this is the right place for this message. Pls let me
know otherwise and suggest to me where I can post this msg. Thanks!

I have an American friend in Prague who's a student at the Central European Univ. who's looking at communicating to USA through ham radio to save money. Do you know off hand if this is possible or permissible (legal) in Prague at all? Are you a ham radio operator in Prague or do you know of one who lives in Prague? If you are a ham, can you possibly find this out? I'm not a ham so I don't know much about ham radio at all. BTW, please let me know if you are a ham living in the Bay Area (particularly Berkeley or Walnut Creek) and who could help me in this matter.

Any help or pointer to my request is greatly appreciated.

Thanks sincerely,

Tivonne (tivonne@atwc.teradyne.com)

--

Tivonne Ha

tivonne@atwc.teradyne.com

TERADYNE -- 2625 Shadelands Drive, Walnut Creek CA 94598

Freedom is what you do with what's been done to you. -Jean Paul Sartre

Date: 21 Sep 93 09:33:28 GMT

From: ogicse!uwm.edu!cs.utexas.edu!not-for-mail@network.ucsd.edu

Subject: Antenna Covenants AGAIN (but now with a twist!)

To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Steve London, N2IC/0, writes:

>This is exactly why neither the ARRL nor the FCC is interested in extending
>PRB-1 to address covenants - It simply isn't perceived as a problem in
>Newington or Washington.

I spoke directly with Chris Imlay, N3AKD, the ARRL General Council, at HAMCOM last June. He addressed this very subject by saying that he and others are doing the research to substantiate the fact that more and more new home developments around the country have severely restrictive covenants against antennas. The ARRL IS, in fact, very concerned about this situation. Chris is working on the legal background footwork necessary to present this to the FCC. He believes that a case can be made to get PRB-1 substantially changed or rewritten to give it teeth to prevent or overcome these kinds of covenants.

Please note that I'm paraphrasing Chris' comments, but this is the gist.

Kris,

AA5UO

Date: Tue, 21 Sep 1993 17:52:55 GMT
From: dog.ee.lbl.gov!agate!howland.reston.ans.net!vixen.cso.uiuc.edu!uwm.edu!
linac!att!att!bigtop!longs!n2ic@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Antenna Covenants AGAIN (but now with a twist!)
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Date: Tue, 21 Sep 1993 19:06:36 GMT
From: swrinde!gatech!howland.reston.ans.net!vixen.cso.uiuc.edu!uchinews!quads!
trev@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Battery recommendation wanted
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <27nat7\$3gv@pscgate.progress.com> damelio@progress.com writes:

>Jim Duncan (duncan@ravel.ati.com) wrote:

>: DELCO batteries are

>: so neat and reliable that I use them indoors instead of GEL-CELLS to

>: run UPS systems at my house and at my radio station. In fact, at my

>: feet is a Triplite SB1000b UPS with a several year old DELCO size 27

>: RV battery that has just a little dust on the top but not a trace of

>: seepage.

>

>Jim, As a HAM I would think you would know and be concerned about outgasses

>that a wet cell like this will produce when charged indoors. Maybe you have a

>setup that is well ventilated, but these batteries should not be used "indoors".

>A gel cell is much more practical in this situation.

>

>Maybe someone with more knowledge in this area can tell us what gasses are

>expelled when automotive batteries are charged and discharged.

>

Hydrogen.

Date: 22 Sep 93 00:07:59 GMT
From: ogicse!emory!kd4nc!ke4zv!gary@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Battery recommendation wanted
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <27nat7\$3gv@pscgate.progress.com> damelio@progress.com writes:

>

>Maybe someone with more knowledge in this area can tell us what gasses are

>expelled when automotive batteries are charged and discharged.

Lead-acid wet cells outgas hydrogen when charged. When overcharged, they emit sulphuric acid fumes. The former is an explosion hazard, and the latter is a corrosive agent.

I've used wet cells to power radios and UPS systems. If you keep them in a well ventilated area in a wooden box, watch the charge levels and rates carefully, and keep the water level up, they are useful and fairly safe. Regular automotive batteries don't last very long in this service though. It's better to use a marine or deep cycle battery for long life.

Gary

--

Gary Coffman KE4ZV	"If 10% is good enough	gatech!wa4mei!ke4zv!gary
Destructive Testing Systems	for Jesus, it's good	uunet!rsiatl!ke4zv!gary
534 Shannon Way	enough for Uncle Sam."	emory!kd4nc!ke4zv!gary
Lawrenceville, GA 30244	-Ray Stevens	

Date: 21 Sep 93 08:40:03 GMT

From: ogicse!uwm.edu!cs.utexas.edu!gerald@cc.utexas.edu!emx.cc.utexas.edu!not-for-mail@network.ucsd.edu

Subject: covenants

To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

n2ic@longs.att.com (N2IC/0) asks:

>>There are about 500,000 hams in the US now. When are we going to become
>>a political force, capable of influencing these developers ?

I suppose the answer is "when we represent a lot more than 1 house buyer in every 500". Well, it's not quite that bad; I don't know the number of people trying to buy a house at any one time, but I would bet that no more than 1% of them are hams who care about antenna restrictions. This is nothing like a "political force". Just as a matter of fact, what is the membership of something like the NRA? (not that we would want the ARRL to be as, well, as NRA-ish as the NRA is).

Derek "I am not the NRA" Wills (AA5BT, G3NMX)
Department of Astronomy, University of Texas,
Austin TX 78712. (512-471-1392)
oo7@astro.as.utexas.edu

Date: 22 Sep 93 00:40:48 GMT

From: ogicse!emory!kd4nc!ke4zv!gary@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: covenants
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <27nhq3INNfv5@emx.cc.utexas.edu> oo7@emx.cc.utexas.edu (Derek Wills) writes:

>n2ic@longs.att.com (N2IC/0) asks:

>

>>>There are about 500,000 hams in the US now. When are we going to become
>>>a political force, capable of influencing these developers ?

>

>I suppose the answer is "when we represent a lot more than 1 house buyer
>in every 500". Well, it's not quite that bad; I don't know the number
>of people trying to buy a house at any one time, but I would bet that no
>more than 1% of them are hams who care about antenna restrictions. This
>is nothing like a "political force". Just as a matter of fact, what is
>the membership of something like the NRA? (not that we would want the
>ARRL to be as, well, as NRA-ish as the NRA is).

The NRA has 3,000,000+ members, and almost every one is politically active. That's the secret, of course. They also represent 100,000,000 armed Americans. The NAB has a much smaller membership than amateurs, something like 1,500, but those are corporations with the ability to influence public opinion. The Farm Bureau has slightly less than 1,000,000 members, the AMA has a bit less than 250,000, but they get their way often because they too are politically active.

Hams by and large aren't single issue voters, have little public voice or public recognition, and don't spend much on lobbying, so they carry little political clout. They also don't have the direct support of a Constitutional amendment or the moral force of a 200 year tradition of armed readiness that the NRA can command.

1968 was an important year for the NRA and for hams. It marked the turning point from a hunting and fishing organization which sponsored marksmanship training to an active political force defending a Constitutional right under attack on one hand. On the other it marked a bunch of tired old men actively seeking government Big Brother style over-regulation to protect an outdated paradigm of communications.

Gary

--

Gary Coffman KE4ZV	"If 10% is good enough	gatech!wa4mei!ke4zv!gary
Destructive Testing Systems	for Jesus, it's good	uunet!rsiatl!ke4zv!gary
534 Shannon Way	enough for Uncle Sam."	emory!kd4nc!ke4zv!gary
Lawrenceville, GA 30244	-Ray Stevens	

Date: 22 Sep 93 03:21:14 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu
Subject: Daily Solar Geophysical Data Broadcast for 21 September
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

```

!!BEGIN!! (1.0) S.T.D. Solar Geophysical Data Broadcast for DAY 264, 09/21/93
10.7 FLUX=080.0  90-AVG=095          SSN=025          BKI=4200 2222  BAI=007
BGND-XRAY=A2.9    FLU1=2.0E+05  FLU10=1.4E+04  PKI=4212 2232  PAI=010
    BOU-DEV=046,012,004,004,014,016,016,013  DEV-AVG=015 NT      SWF=00:000
    XRAY-MAX= B1.5   @ 1358UT      XRAY-MIN= A2.3   @ 0133UT      XRAY-AVG= A3.6
NEUTN-MAX= +003%   @ 0030UT      NEUTN-MIN= -002%   @ 1310UT      NEUTN-AVG= +0.3%
    PCA-MAX= +0.0DB @ 2355UT      PCA-MIN= -0.1DB @ 2350UT      PCA-AVG= -0.0DB
BOUTF-MAX=55369NT @ 0257UT      BOUTF-MIN=55336NT @ 1700UT      BOUTF-AVG=55360NT
GOES7-MAX=P:+000NT@ 0000UT      GOES7-MIN=N:+000NT@ 0000UT      G7-AVG=+073,+000,+000
GOES6-MAX=P:+133NT@ 1442UT      GOES6-MIN=N:-073NT@ 1348UT      G6-AVG=+090,-011,-047
    FLUXFCST=STD:080,080,085;SESC:080,080,085  BAI/PAI-FCST=010,010,015/012,012,015
    KFCST=2124 4112 2135 5111  27DAY-AP=004,006  27DAY-KP=2002 1111 2112 1223
WARNINGS=
ALERTS=
!!END-DATA!!

```

NOTE: The Effective Sunspot Number for 20 SEP 93 was 45.0.
The Full Kp Indices for 20 SEP 93 are: 1o 1o 1+ 4+ 4- 4- 3+ 4+

Date: 21 Sep 93 22:47:57 GMT
From: ogicse!emory!rsiatl!jgd@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Emergency: cellular vs ham (was Re: Yagi for Cellular Phone?)
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

jherman@uhunix3.uhcc.Hawaii.Edu (Jeff Herman) writes:

>In article <1993Sep19.145537.28803@ke4zv.atl.ga.us> gary@ke4zv.UUCP (Gary Coffman) writes:

[illegible]

```
>Oh Gary, I think you are REALLY drawing straws here; to blame the demise
>of this wonderful sounding club on a group who use higher speed Morse
```

>is really a thin argument. Certainly, none of us were there to witness
>this except you, but common sense would dictate that there should be
>no connection between a new licensing system, and a club closing down.
>There's some pieces to this puzzle missing.

>Jeff NH6IL

I'm amazed that someone with an obviously very new callsign would question Gary's account of what happened to his own club. For what it's worth, his description varies only slightly with what happened to my old club, the Cleveland (TN) Amateur Radio Club. Actually something similar happened twice to this club. The first was with incentive licensing, when the elder CW statesmen (NOT), holders of extra and advanced class licenses cliqued together and ran off the rest of the hams. Unfortunately for them, they were dumb as fireplugs about the club equipment so as the equipment died, so did the club. In the late 70s we rebuilt the club to some semblance of its former self when along came the VE program. This was as bad as incentive licensing. Cleveland is the corporate headquarters of the church of god of prophecy (COG-OPs as we call 'em.) The COG-ops have in the past and presumably still do illegally use amateur radio to conduct the business of their missionary activities. I had the unfortunate occasion to live across the street from their headquarters building and got to suffer the consequences of their very high powered, very incompetently run HF station.

Anyway, when the VE program became reality, the COG-OPs saw this as the opportunity to obtain licenses for a large number of their workers. They qualified a couple of their people as VEs and then ran literally hundreds of their people through the program. The cheating was rampant. They were caught with smoking guns on a couple of occasions but no one including the FCC seemed to care. I participated on one of the investigative ad-hoc committees. The guy was caught red-handed with his cheat sheets. I wrote a letter to the FCC separate from the committee's report. Nothing. Not a word.

This wave of non-hams invaded the club in order to gain access to the very fine club station we had assembled in the clubhouse we had financed and built. The club went overnight from over 300 members to under 100, and none of these 100 were old members. Again, as soon as the equipment quit working, so did the club. Last I heard, they'd managed to drop a tower across the guy lines for the police repeater, taking that tower down. The city is threatening to cancel the lease.

John

--

John De Armond, WD40QC	For a free sample magazine, send
Performance Engineering Magazine(TM)	a digest-size 52 cent SASE
Marietta, Ga "Hotrods'n'computers"	(Domestic) to PO Box 669728

jgd@dixie.com "What could be better?" | Marietta, GA 30066
Email may be published at my sole discretion.

Date: 22 Sep 93 01:20:25 GMT
From: ogicse!emory!kd4nc!ke4zv!gary@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Expensive application processes... (Was: Antenna Covenants)
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <1993Sep21.201856.22151@cs.brown.edu> md@pstc3.pstc.brown.edu (Michael Deignan) writes:

>In article <9309211932.AA10879@maverick.aud.alcatel.com>,
mraz@maverick.aud.alcatel.com (Kris Mraz) writes:

>
>|> He believes that a case can be
>|> made to get PRB-1 substantially changed or rewritten to give it teeth
>|> to prevent or overcome these kinds of covenants.
>
>Well, I wish the ARRL would be a little more specific on what exactly is
>"reasonable accomodation". And I wish that the FCC would spend a little
>more time enforcing PRB-1 rather than make the common folks without
>the resources fund legal cases. Maybe if the FCC actually started
>taking some cities to court, and won big concessions, cities would
>start to wake up.

PRB-1 is a "finding" of government interest in radio communications.
It doesn't have quite the same force as a law. That would require
action by Congress.

>For example, in my town I wanted to put up a 55' crank-up tower. I live
>in an "R-1" zoned neighborhood (translated: NIMBY-city) which is composed of
>primarily single-family houses.

>
>Well, the limit is 30' plus a 10' over allowance. In order to apply for
>a variance, I would have to:

- >
- > 1. Pay an "application" fee of \$500, plus an "advertising" fee
> of \$100.
 - > 2. Provide 10 copies of a 10-to-1 scale plot of all buildings,
> properties, district lines, zoning lines, etc., for everything
> within a 200' radius of my property lines.
 - > 3. Provide address labels for the owners (not occupants) of
> every piece of property shown on my plot.
 - > 4. Provide a certified "engineering study" of the structure I was
> going to erect, demonstrating its acceptable windload and
> falling perimeters. (this one was my favorite...)

This all sounds fairly reasonable. The fee is consistent with the concept of "user fees" for special government services. The plat requirements are normal zoning procedure, as is the notification provision. The "engineering study" normally means a copy of the Rohn data appended to a certification by an engineer that the proposed installation is consistent with that data.

>On top of all this, I was informed that I should not even bother to
>apply if the structure would not entirely fall on my property should
>it collapse. Since I live on a 40x100' city lot, there is no way I can
>put something up which will fall within my property lines.

That is unreasonable. Since buildings can fall across property lines, and you are required to get a PE to sign off on the installation plans, this shouldn't be the case. It does make the zoning board's job easier, but that's why you're paying them the \$500.

>I figured out how much it was going to cost me (assuming I was
>granted my application and didn't have to 'appeal' at the rate
>of \$500/appeal), the total "cost" for the engineering studies, land
>plots, legal fees, research, etc., was close to

>
> \$5,000
>

>This, mind you, to erect an HDX-455, which you can buy from HRO for
>\$1,289. And, that's with no guarantee. I could have shelled out the
>dough and received a flat "no".

There's the breaks in a zoned community. Zoning is a two edged sword. On one hand it protects you from having an all night body shop next door. On the other it makes doing unusual things on your property more difficult. And ham radio definitely is unusual.

>Okay, so let's forget the variance, right? Let's just put up a 40'
>structure instead? Easy, all you have to do is apply for the
>permit, right? Wrong.

>
>Zoning board still wants me to provide items #2 and #4 above,
>along with my "application fee" of \$100.

That's not bad, standard zoning practice.

>Basically the zoning ordinances are set up specifically to prohibit
>you from setting up any type of amateur radio tower.

No, they're set up to control land usage. You're lucky that towers are provided for at all on a narrow city lot.

>And spare me the "you should have checked before you moved there"
>line. I wasn't a ham, nor had any intention of putting a 55'
>tower in my backyard 5 years ago.

So move now. Interests change, and that may require relocating.
If you suddenly decided you wanted to raise chickens and goats,
you'd have to move. So don't be surprised that you have to find
a more suitable location to erect a large tower.

Gary

--

Gary Coffman KE4ZV	"If 10% is good enough	gatech!wa4mei!ke4zv!gary
Destructive Testing Systems	for Jesus, it's good	uunet!rsiatl!ke4zv!gary
534 Shannon Way	enough for Uncle Sam."	emory!kd4nc!ke4zv!gary
Lawrenceville, GA 30244	-Ray Stevens	

Date: Tue, 21 Sep 1993 18:13:49 GMT
From: pa.dec.com!e2big.mko.dec.com!jac.nuo.dec.com!nntpd.lkg.dec.com!
ryn.mro4.dec.com!est.enet.dec.com!randolph@decwrl.dec.com
Subject: Ignition noise found
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Just spent a lunchtime sniffing out a source of crackly ignition noise in my
car. Turned out to be the coil lead making poor contact at one end, and arcing
over. This would have been obvious had I just pulled the lead and looked in,
cuz it had that powdery greenish stuff, that forms around arcs, all over it.

What finally pinpointed it was a 2" dual-band stubby duck off of another ham's
HT. It was the deafest antenna we had, and it pointed to the coil-distributor
area. Any other antenna picked up the crackle from 20 feet away! I wonder how
well my 50 ohm dummy load would work for this sort of thing?

-Tom R. N100Q randolph@est.enet.dec.com

Date: 22 Sep 1993 00:31:21 GMT
From: jgervais@ucsd.edu
Subject: MFJ QRP Rigs - Experiences? Any good?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Being a low power ham by both interest and necessity,
I was wondering if any current/previous owners of
the MFJ QRP rigs (Model 90xx, I believe) could give
me their opinions. I have a chance to get one at

what seems to be a reasonable price (~\$170 US for both the rig and matching power pack).

Is the filter any good? Clean signal? How's the overall feel? Is the QSK as grand as the ads make it sound?

I'll post a summary if I get alot of replies to this. Thanks for the help.

Regards,

Joe Gervais jgervais@ucsd.edu
KD6PRD ==> 13 WPM or Bust!

"The largest hack begins with a single kludge."
- Not quite Confucious

Date: Tue, 21 Sep 1993 15:22:39 GMT
From: spsgate!mogate!newsgate!news@uunet.uu.net
Subject: Replacing my CSCE...
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <1993Sep21.132541.4170@porthos.cc.bellcore.com>
whs70@dancer.cc.bellcore.com (sohl,william h) writes:

> ...

> The CSCE is the ONLY proof you have as a Technician that you have the
> HF privalegdes associated with passing the 5wpm CW test. Technical
> speaking, even if you are in your car operation 10 mter mobile you
> are supposed to have your FCC license AND the 5wpm CSCE with you.
> The FCC says a photocopy is OK, so I would suggest you try to get
> another CSCE from the folks that issued the one you had. Hopefully
> they may have the records to be able to simply go back and check.

>

I think the ARRL keeps a database on people who have passed element 1A and thereby upgraded to Tech+. I believe W5YI does also, or perhaps contributes to the ARRL database. A call or email to the ARRL might be worthwhile.

73... Mark AA7TA

Date: (null)

From: (null)

> As to all or most new developments being built with such covenenats,
> that may be true in some places, but certainly not all. To enforce such
> covenants usually requires an active homeowners association and that
> isn't always the goal of all developers. Here in the northeast, I'd say
> most single family dwellings (not townhouses, etc.) are built and sold
> without such covenants, and even if such covenants exist, few areas
> have any ongoing "homeowners association" to actively monitor and thus
> enforce such restrictions.
>

This is exactly why neither the ARRL nor the FCC is interested in extending PRB-1 to address covenants - It simply isn't perceived as a problem in Newington or Washington. Just try finding a new home development built outside of the east coast in the last 10 years that doesn't ban outdoor antennas ! I believe Wayne Overbeck, N6NB did just such a study a few years ago in the LA area.

There are about 500,000 hams in the US now. When are we going to become a political force, capable of influencing these developers ?

Steve London, N2IC/0

End of Info-Hams Digest V93 #1125
